



Certification
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
certification@state.sd.us
Telephone: 605.773.3553

Department of Education

Alternative Route to Certification Program Application

Instructions & Requirements

To be eligible to enter the South Dakota Department of Education alternative route to certification program, you must have obtained a bachelors degree and be employed as a classroom teacher at an accredited South Dakota school district.

Once you have met the eligibility requirements, submit the following to the Department of Education, Certification, 800 Governors Dr., Pierre, SD 57501.

- Completed application and conduct review statement;
- Non-refundable \$24 processing fee in the form of a money order, cashier's check, or personal check payable to the Department of Education;
- Official transcripts verifying your bachelors degree; and,
- Copy of your signed teacher contract.

At the end of the initial two-year instructor's certificate, applicants can request an additional year on the alternative certification program. To request the additional year, submit this application and the \$18 non-refundable processing fee.

Questions can be directed to Roxie Thielen at roxie.thielen@state.sd.us or 605.773.4669.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Mail to: Department of Education, Certification, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501

Year you hope to begin the program: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Last Name First Middle Name

Date of Birth

Street Address

Telephone

City, State, Zip

Email

Gender: Female _____ Male _____

Yes____**No**____ Hispanic

Race(s): _____ American Indian or Alaska Native _____ Asian _____ Black or African American
 _____ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander _____ White

List ALL degrees earned, beginning with most recent.

Year(s)	College/University	City/State	Degree/Major
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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School district where you are employed: _____

Teaching assignment at the school district: _____

Citizenship and Oath of Allegiance SDCL 13-42-6

Are you a citizen of the United States: ____YES ____NO

If "NO", of which country are you a citizen? _____

***Note:** Legal aliens are not required to sign the oath of allegiance but must submit a copy of his/her passport **and** green card **or** visa.*

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of South Dakota and the information contained in this application is true and correct to the extent of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant_____

APPLICANT CONDUCT REVIEW STATEMENT
SDCL 13-42-9, 13-42-10, 25-7A-56

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants **must** respond to all questions before an application for certification can be processed.

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION	
Applicant Full Name (Last, First, Middle)	Previous Full Name
Social Security Number	Date of Birth (Mo., Date, Year)

Failure to answer any of these questions in a truthful and complete manner or failure to provide truthful information or documentation requested could lead to denial of a certificate to teach or hold an administrative certificate in South Dakota, or could lead to disciplinary action being taken against any teaching or school administrative certification that you possess.

Respond to **EVERY** item. If an arrow (➡) follows your response, follow the instruction given. Attach any/all requested materials to your application, numbering the attachments with the number of the applicable item. If you do not respond to an item, or if the required attachments do not accompany your application, your application **may be significantly delayed**.

1. Have you ever been arrested or charged with any criminal offense?

The term **criminal offense** includes misdemeanor and felony offenses. It does not include petty offenses such as minor traffic offenses including but not limited to: speeding tickets, stop sign violations, or careless driving offenses. If you are not sure whether the crime would be a minor offense, include the offense. All Class I misdemeanor offenses and Class II non-traffic misdemeanor offenses must be disclosed.

☐ YES ☐ NO

➡ If **YES** – Explain briefly by listing the offense and the date/year it occurred. Attach all court documents to your application. For questions, call 605-773-3553.

2. Have you ever been convicted or pleaded guilty to any criminal offense?

The term **conviction** includes a finding of guilt by a judge or jury, or admission of guilt or plea of guilty, or a plea without an admission of guilt. You must include those crimes where the sentence was stayed, suspended, executed, or you received a suspended imposition of sentence.

All persons hired by a school district (either directly or by contract/agreement) shall submit to a criminal background check investigation by means of fingerprint checks by the Division of Criminal Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation. SDCL 13-10-12. Criminal convictions may be considered in hiring decisions. SDCL 13-10-13 Suspension or resignation of Employee for criminal conviction shall be reported to the Department of Education. SDCL 13-10-15.

☐ YES ☐ NO

- ➡ If **YES** – Explain briefly and attach court documents indicating the crime for which you were convicted, the dates of your conviction or plea of guilty, the dates you were sentenced, and the sentence imposed. If you have been discharged from probation, include information regarding your discharge from probation. If you are currently on probation, provide the name and telephone number of your probation officer. For questions, call 605-773-3553.
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3. Has it ever been determined by a judge or jury in South Dakota or elsewhere that a child or minor adult was abused or neglected through your actions or omission?

☐ YES ☐ NO

- ➡ If **YES** – Explain briefly and provide court documents.
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4. Have you ever been in arrears or failed to pay child support in this state or elsewhere?

Certificates will not be issued to anyone in child support arrears according to SDCL 25-7A-56.

☐ YES ☐ NO

- ➡ If **YES** – Explain briefly and provide court documents.
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5. Have you ever had any credential, certificate or license authorizing school teaching or educational service suspended, revoked, voided, denied, cancelled, rescinded, or rejected for cause and/or otherwise taken away in South Dakota or in any other state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States of America or elsewhere?

☐ YES ☐ NO

- ➡ If **YES** – Attach documents explaining the action, location(s), dates(s), and agency involved.
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6. Is there any type of adverse action pending against any credential, license, or certificate that you now hold or have ever held that authorizes school teaching or educational service?

☐ YES ☐ NO

- ➡ If **YES** – Attach material explaining the action or charges, location(s), dates(s), and agency involved
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7. Have you ever left employment, been discharged, terminated, or resigned to avoid dismissal or disciplinary action?

☐ YES ☐ NO

➔ If YES – Explain briefly.

8. Have you ever held a license, certificate or credential, other than as a teacher or administrator, which has been revoked, cancelled, rescinded, suspended or taken away in South Dakota or elsewhere? (i.e. certified public accountant, insurance agent, real estate broker)

☐ YES ☐ NO

➔ If YES, state the license, certificate, or credential held and present the status of each.

9. Is there any information not disclosed by your answers concerning your background, history, experience, education, or activities which may have some bearing on your character, moral fitness, or eligibility to teach or hold an administrative position in South Dakota and which should be placed at the disposal or brought to the attention of the South Dakota Department of Education?

☐ YES ☐ NO

➔ If YES, state the facts fully, but concisely.

The Secretary of the Department of Education may deny, revoke or suspend a certificate for any cause which would have prevented its issue, plain violation of contract, gross immorality, incompetency, violation of the Code of Ethics, flagrant neglect of duty or conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude. SDCL 13-42-7, 13-42-9 and 13-42-10. The Secretary may suspend any certificate for a period not to exceed one year for breaking or jumping a contract, if such suspension is requested by the school board. However, the secretary may not suspend a certificate for breaking or jumping a contract if the school board collected liquidated damages pursuant to the terms of the contract. SDCL 13-42-9.

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the Department of Education to review and inspect any and all records maintained by the State of South Dakota, Tribal entities and/or the Federal Government for the purpose of verifying the answers submitted above.

I further agree to provide any additional documentation or records requested by the South Dakota Department of Education that pertains to information submitted as a part of this application.

I declare and affirm under penalties of perjury pursuant to SDCL 22-29-9.1 that this application has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true, accurate, complete and correct. I understand that any intentional falsification, misrepresentation or omission of facts or falsification of statements on accompanying documents may result in criminal charges and/or the denial of certification, and could affect the status of my teaching or school administrative certificate.

Signature of Applicant

Date